

Welcome

As always at this time of year, it has been a busy few weeks and the children have all been excited in the run up to the Christmas activities. Friends organised the Christmas Cards and gifts, and we've had the Nativity performances from Nursery, Reception & Key Stage 1– all of which were lovely and the children looked amazing and performed brilliantly.

Year 4 visited St Michael's Church to learn about the Christmas story, Year 5 & 6 ran their Christmas Bazaar, the choir attended the Carol Concert at Easthampstead Baptist Church and 5K visited Liscombe House to perform to the residents. This week, the children have had their Christmas parties and on Wednesday, we all had our Christmas Lunch, with everyone wearing their festive hats!

This term, and especially the last week has been incredibly difficult, managing illness outbreaks amongst children and staff, cancelling performances and trying to keep the school open. I know parents have been particularly concerned about the Scarlet Fever and Strep A outbreak. At certain times, we have had to ask Teaching Assistants to cover classes, or put classes together. At the same time everyone has worked incredibly hard to come together to support each other.

Many thanks to all the staff, Friends, and volunteers who have helped organise the events and activities for the children. I know the children have had a great time and everyone is ready for the holidays.

On behalf of the staff and governors, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Michael Dillon - Headteacher



The Nursery Nativity



Year 5

On Monday afternoon, 5K had the opportunity to sing carols and Christmas songs with the residents at Liscombe House. After a rather snowy walk to the home, the children were warmly invited in. The residents of the home joined in heartily with all the songs thoroughly enjoying wagging their fingers at each other during 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town'. When all the singing was done, the children were given a well-deserved cup of squash and a biscuit. 5D had written some beautiful Christmas poetry which we presented for the residents to enjoy, along with a box of biscuits. The children were brilliantly behaved and the staff at the home commented on how lovely their singing was and how well they interacted with the residents. During the event, the children had asked for words of wisdom and they were very inspired by the comments given encouraging them to live their lives happily, kindly and showing love to others.

We received this lovely email from Kerry at Silva Homes who organised the visit:

'Can I just say on behalf of the residents of Liscombe House what a privilege it was to have year 5 come and sing today. The children were amazing, they sang brilliantly, interacted with the residents, and were so polite. A real credit to the school. We would love to have them back anytime to sing. Please thank the teacher, and all the lovely volunteers also'.



Year 6

Year 6 have delved deeply in their learning about World War Two this half term, with a particular focus on the Home Front and evacuation. As part of this, they produced some wonderful diary entries and brilliant homework projects. To conclude the topic, we were lucky enough to have a visit from Pamela Leckie (an expert in WW2) who brought in a collection of WW2 memorabilia such as: soldiers uniforms, first aid kits, a wheelchair and lots more. It was great to be able to hold items from the times and some of us even got to dress up in the uniforms!



A Message from Governors

The Governors would like to wish all parents/carers and children a very Merry Christmas and a joyful New year. Please enjoy the festive season and stay safe. We look forward to welcoming you all back in 2023 which promises to be an exciting year for Birch Hill Primary and we very much look forward to progressing the school forward with Mr Dillon and the leadership team but above all working with the parents /carers.

Merry Christmas

Stephen Weeks Chair of Governors - On behalf of the Governing board

DATES FOR THE DIARY

END OF TERM	FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER
INSET DAY	TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2023
SPRING TERM STARTS	WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2023
Year 2 Maths Workshop	9am on Tuesday 10th January—2M 9am on Thursday 12th January—20B
Take One Picture Arts Week	Monday 9th—Friday 13th January
Young Voices Concert at the O2	Monday 16th January
Take One Picture Art Exhibition	Thursday 9th February— time TBC

Poppy Appeal 2022

A huge thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion and their Poppy Appeal. We raised an amazing **£632.09**.



**A Merry Christmas and a
very
Happy New Year
from
Everyone at
Birch Hill Primary
School**